

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 IO-10 COME-00

CIEP-01 /087 W

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R 181020Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0622

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SG, SF

SUBJ: SENEGALESE AND LIBERIAN APPROACHES TO SOUTHERN
AFRICAN PROBLEMS

REF: DAKAR 1541 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DURING MEETING WITH CABINET DIRECTOR MINISTRY
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SYLLA AMBASSADOR ASKED
FOR APPRAISAL OF RECENT OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE
HELD IN DAR ES SALAAM TO CONSIDER BLACK AFRICAN
RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. SYLLA BELIEVED
THAT UNDER CURRENT GUIDELINES SENEGAL'S EFFORTS TO
GENERATE DIALOGUE THROUGH SUCH MEANS AS SENDING GROUP OF
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JURISTS TO SOUTH AFRICA (REFTEL) MIGHT BE

STYMIED. HE SAID PRESIDENT SENGHOR NONETHELESS
WOULD BE RELUCTANT ABANDON EFFORTS FOR PEACEFUL
SOLUTION TO SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEM. LIBERIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER DENNIS, WHO VISITED DAKAR APRIL 14 TO
APRIL 16 WITH MESSAGE FROM LIBERIAN PRESIDENT
FOR SENGHOR, TOLD PRESS AND SENEGALESE OFFICIALS OAU HAD
NOT YET CLOSED DOOR TO CONTACTS SUPPLEMENTING
THOSE BETWEEN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND
SOUTH AFRICAN REGIMES. END SUMMARY.

2. CABINET DIRECTOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
YOUSSEPH SYLLA TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 16 THERE MAY BE
DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG AFRICAN STATES AS TO
INTERPRETATION OF OAU FONMINS DECISION WITH REGARD TO
DIALOGUE WITH RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. LIBERIAN FONMIN
CECIL DENNIS HAD JUST LEFT DAKAR APRIL 16 AFTER BRIEFING
PRESIDENT SENGHOR ON PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S MEETING
WITH VORSTER AND LIBERIAN POLICY WITH RESPECT SOUTH AFRICA.
DENNIS, ACCORDING TO SYLLA, SEEMED TO BELIEVE AFRICAN
STATES COULD CONTINUE CONTACTS WITH WHITE SOUTH AFRICA
AND RHODESIA. GOS VIEW, SYLLA SAID, IS THAT OAU FONMINS
APPROVED DIALOGUE BETWEEN "BELLIGERENTS," I.E. RESPECTIVELY
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WITH RHODESIAN
AND SOUTH AFRICAN REGIMES. ANY OTHER CONTACTS, SUCH AS
PROPOSED VISIT OF SENEGALESE JURISTS TO SA WOULD
REQUIRE SPECIFIC OAU APPROVAL AS WELL AS ACCORD
OF PRINCIPAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT CONCERNED.

2. ASKED WHETHER SENEGAL WOULD PUSH AHEAD WITH ITS
DIALOGUE EFFORTS, SYLLA HESITATED, THEN SAID HE FELT
JURISTS MISSION WAS NOW STYMIED--UNLESS OAU CHIEFS OF
STATE CHANGED DIALOGUE POLICY TO ALLOW MORE FREEDOM OF
INITIATIVE BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR SENGHOR AND OTHERS
DECIDE PURSUE THEIR INITIATIVES IRRESPECTIVE OF OAU
POLICY. HE DOUBTED SENEGALESE PRESIDENT WOULD TAKE SUCH
UNILATERAL COURSE BUT FELT HE WOULD NOT WISH TO ABANDON
EFFORTS FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

3. VISITING AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO IS OLD FRIEND OF
DENNIS GAVE EMBOFF ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON
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LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT. HE SAID PURPOSE OF
VISIT WAS PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S CONCERN WITH RECENT DAR ES
SALAAM RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN. LIBERIANS SAID TO BE
ANXIOUS TO CONSULT WITH OTHER "MODERATES" BEFORE
DETERMINING FUTURE COURSE THEIR POLICY.

4. ANOTHER INDICATION OF SENEGALESE ATTITUDES
ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUE WAS GIVEN BY SENEGALESE FOREIGN

MINISTER ASSANE SECK IN PRESS CONFERENCE UPON HIS RETURN FROM DAR ES SALAAM APRIL 14. SECK SAID DECISIONS AT OAU MEETING WERE HARDENING OF OAU POSITION IN FAVOR OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE CITED DECISION TO ESTABLISH ALL CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICA AT LEVEL OF OAU (RATHER THAN STATE LEVEL) AND PLANNED CREATION OF OAU SANCTIONS COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD TAKE ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. IN PARTICULAR SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPS AND PLANES WOULD BE REFUSED FACILITIES OF OAU STATES.

5. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR GAINED CLEAR IMPRESSION FROM MEETING WITH SYLLA THAT ON QUESTION OF DIALOGUE BOTH CABINET DIRECTOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER PREFER HARDER LINE THAN SENGHOR--PROBABLY OUT OF FEAR REPERCUSSIONS DIALOGUE MIGHT HAVE FOR SENEGAL'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES (THIS DIVERGENCE ALSO NOTED BY AUSTRALIAN AND INDIAN AMBASSADORS AS REPORTED DAKAR 2123). OF COURSE, POLICY DETERMINED BY SENGHOR. HE PROBABLY STILL DISPOSED TO WORK WITH TOLBERT FOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN AFRICAN POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUE.
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